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Letter dated 20 December 2017 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2017. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan

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Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Volodymyr Yelchenko (Ukraine) as Chair and the representatives of Italy and Senegal as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 1556 (2004), the Security Council imposed an arms embargo on all non-governmental entities and individuals, including the Janjaweed, operating in the States of North Darfur, South Darfur and West Darfur in the Sudan. By its resolution 1591 (2005), the Council broadened the scope of the arms embargo to include all parties to the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement and any other belligerents in those States (subsequently confirmed, in resolution 2035 (2012), to also include the new States of East and Central Darfur). Exemptions to the measures were also included.

4. By its resolution 1591 (2005), the Security Council also established a committee to monitor the implementation of the arms embargo and the two additional measures, a travel ban and an asset freeze, imposed through the same resolution on individuals, to be designated by the Committee, on the basis of the criteria contained in the resolution. The Council, by its resolution 2035 (2012), subsequently extended the applicability of the designation criteria to entities. By its resolution 1672 (2006), the Council designated four individuals as subject to the travel ban and asset freeze.

5. The enforcement of the arms embargo was strengthened in resolution 1945 (2010), when the Security Council clarified the exemptions to that measure and made the sale or supply of arms and related materiel to the Sudan not prohibited by the embargo contingent upon the necessary end user documentation. The exemptions to the embargo were further updated in resolution 2035 (2012).

6. By its resolution 1769 (2007), the Security Council provided for an arms embargo monitoring aspect to the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). In its resolution 2228 (2015), the Council requested UNAMID to discontinue all other tasks not aligned to its revised strategic priorities, which did not include any reference to the above-mentioned monitoring role. The Council expressed deep concern over the proliferation of arms, in particular small arms and light weapons, and requested UNAMID to continue to cooperate in that context with the Panel of Experts on the Sudan in order to facilitate its work. The Council reiterated its concern and request in its resolution 2363 (2017).

7. The Panel of Experts, operating under the direction of the Committee, was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1591 (2005) to assist the Committee in monitoring the implementation of the measures and to act as a source of information for potential designations. The membership of the Panel, which initially consisted of four experts, was increased to five experts by the Council in its resolution 1713 (2006). The Panel's mandate was renewed most recently in resolution 2340 (2017).

8. Further background information on the Sudan sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

9. The Committee met five times in informal consultations, on 5 January, 7 April, 3 July, 8 September and 28 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures. The Committee also met in joint informal consultations on 10 November with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan.

10. During the informal consultations held on 5 January, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its final report, submitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2265 (2016), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

11. During the informal consultations held on 7 April, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its work programme under resolution 2340 (2017). The Panel also provided a briefing on its final quarterly update, submitted in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 2265 (2016).

12. During the informal consultations held on 3 July, the Chair presented to the Committee a report on his visit to the Sudan from 14 to 18 May. The Committee discussed the report and the recommendations contained therein.

13. During the informal consultations held on 8 September, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's first report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 2340 (2017), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

14. During the joint informal consultations with the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya and to resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan, held on 10 November in follow-up to the recommendation made by the Chair in his above-mentioned report, the Committee heard briefings by the Panels of Experts on the Sudan, on Libya and on South Sudan and held an interactive discussion, with a view to achieving a common approach on how best to prevent Darfuri armed groups in Libya and South Sudan from engaging in destabilizing activities.

15. During the informal consultations held on 28 December, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its final report, submitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2340 (2017), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

16. Following each of the above-mentioned informal consultations, as well as the joint informal consultations, and in accordance with paragraph 104 of the annex to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507), the Committee issued press releases containing brief summaries of the informal consultations.

17. On 20 January, 26 April, 24 July and 7 December, the Chair of the Committee briefed the Security Council during consultations on the activities of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) (iv) of resolution 1591 (2005).

18. From 14 to 18 May, the Chair visited Khartoum and Darfur. A report on the visit was circulated to the members of the Committee on 16 June.

19. In 2017, the Committee received two implementation report from a Member State.

20. The Committee provided additional guidance to all Member States by issuing and updating, on 13 January and 6 March, respectively, an implementation assistance notice on the travel ban. On 3 February, the Committee sent a note verbale to all Member States in accordance with paragraph 101 (b) of the final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan (S/2017/22), encouraging Member States, upon discovery of cases in which designated individuals are present on or transiting through their territory, to promptly report such non-compliance with the travel ban to the Committee. On 16 October, as a follow-up to recommendations contained in the first report of the Panel of Experts pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 2340 (2017), the Committee sent a note verbale to encourage those Members States that had not yet submitted implementation reports to do so, with a particular focus on obstacles in implementing the sanctions measures.

21. The Committee sent 15 letters to seven Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

22. Exemptions to the arms embargo are contained in paragraph 9 of resolution 1556 (2004) and paragraph 7 of resolution 1591 (2005), subsequently updated in paragraph 8 (b) of resolution 1945 (2010) and paragraph 4 of resolution 2035 (2012).

23. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraph 3 (f) of resolution 1591 (2005) and exemptions to the asset freeze in paragraph 3 (g) of resolution 1591 (2005).

24. No exemption requests or notifications were received by the Committee during the period under review.

V. Sanctions list

25. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban and asset freeze are set out in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1591 (2005). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

26. On 17 October, the Committee approved an amendment to one existing entry on its sanctions list.

27. As at the end of the reporting period, there were four individuals on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Panel of Experts

28. On 22 December 2016, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2265 (2016), the Panel of Experts provided its final report to the Committee (S/2017/22), which was transmitted to the Security Council on 9 January 2017 and issued as a document of the Council.

29. On 2 March, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2340 (2017), the Secretary-General appointed five individuals to serve on the Panel, with expertise in arms, finance, international humanitarian law, regional issues and transport and customs (see S/2017/188). The mandate of the Panel expires on 12 March 2018.

30. On 8 August, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2340 (2017), the Panel provided its first report to the Committee.

31. On 31 January, 10 March, 1 June and 16 October, in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 2265 (2016) and paragraph 3 of resolution 2340 (2017), the Panel of Experts submitted quarterly updates to the Committee.

32. On 27 November, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2340 (2017), the Panel provided its final report to the Committee, which is expected to be transmitted to the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council in January 2018.

33. The Panel conducted visits to Belgium, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Kenya, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Qatar, South Sudan, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

34. In pursuance of its mandate, the Panel, through the Secretariat, sent 102 letters to Member States, the Committee and several international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

35. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime.

36. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 11 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership in the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 24 October notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel of Experts and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

37. The Division continued to provide support to the Panel of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Panel's first report submitted in August and its final report submitted in November.

38. The Panel of Experts participated in the fifth annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 5 and 6 December, organized by the Secretariat. On 7 and 8 December, the Division, in cooperation with United Nations system partners, conducted a workshop on investigative interview techniques for 10 experts from sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels. One member of the Panel participated therein.

39. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the Committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, including through the creation of links within list entries, as appropriate, to INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, as well as the development in English of the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 48 of resolution 2253 (2015).